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Examiner: Lu, Jiping

REMARKS

In response to the Patent Office Letter of May 19, 2005, the Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application and to place the application in allowable condition, any and all objections that have been set forth by the Examiner have now been attended to.

In paragraph 1 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(4). The Examiner has pointed out that the reference character "28" has been used to designate both the actuating member and a separating wall. Accordingly, the Applicant submits herewith a revised sheets of drawings, pertaining in particular to Figs. 3, 4 and 5. The designation for the separating wall has now been identified as separating wall 33. Thus, in Figs. 3-5 the reference character at the bottom of the cross-sectional views has been changed from "28" to --33--. Appropriate replacement sheets are submitted herewith.

In paragraph 2 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has objected to claims 15-18 under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. To overcome this objection, the dependency of claim 15 has now been changed so that it no longer depends from claim 14. Claim 15 now depends from claim 12. With this amendment to claim 15, all of claims 15-18 should be in allowable condition.

In paragraphs 3-5 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has set forth rejections of claim 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and the enablement requirement. The Examiner has referred in particular to language at the end of claim 25 relating to the operation of the buttons. To overcome this rejection, the Applicant has now made an amendment in claim 25 removing the language referenced by the Examiner and substituting in its place the following:

"when the ignition button and the safety button are both released the actuating member pivots to a second position to re-engage the safety button, thereby placing the lighter in the locked or off position."

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Support for this language is found in the present specification. Refer to page 5 and the paragraph at lines 21-26.

In paragraph 6 of the Patent Office Letter, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-13 and 20-24 are all allowed. With the amendments to claims 15 and 25, it is believed that all other remaining claims in this application should now also be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the present application is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicants hereby request a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicants' attorney may be contacted by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our deposit account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because reference character "28" had been used to designate both lower actuating arm and separating wall. The Applicant now submits herewith replacement sheets wherein the designation for the separating wall has now been identified as separating wall 33. It is believed with these submissions that this drawing objection should now be overcome.